

OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND DISEASES IN **ALBERTA**



Lost-Time Claims, Disabling Injury
Claims and Claim Rates

Alberta Motor Transport Association Industries

2002 to 2006

Summer 2007

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HIGHLIGHTS

Stable lost-time claim and disabling injury rates in 2006

- The lost-time claim rate in the Alberta Motor Transport Association (AMTA) industries was 4.59 per 100 person-years, virtually unchanged from 2005's rate of 4.60. The average lost-time claim rate for all sectors was 2.35.
- The disabling injury rate experienced an increase of 4.3%, to 6.30 per 100 person-years in 2006. This was caused by a 9.3% increase in the number of disabling injury claims, compared to a 4.9% increase in person-years. The average disabling injury rate for all sectors in the province was 4.14.
- The AMTA industries accounted for 3.0% of person-years, 5.9% of lost-time claims, 3.6% of modified work claims, and 4.6% of disabling injury claims in the province.
- All industries in the AMTA had lost-time claim and disabling injury rates higher than the provincial averages for all sectors.
- The Specialized Trucking industry had the lowest lost-time claim and disabling injury rates at 4.00 and 6.14 per 100 person-years respectively.
- The General Delivery Services Trucking industry had the highest lost-time claim rate at 4.64 per 100 person-years, while Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services had the highest disabling injury rate at 7.03.
- The duration rate for the AMTA industries was 162 per 100 person-years; triple the provincial figure of 54. In addition, 22.6% of the total lost-time claims resulted in 51 days or more lost from work, compared to 13.2% for all sectors.
- The fatality rate in 2006 was 231 per million person-years. The average fatality rate for all sectors in the province was 78.
- In the AMTA industries, employers with 100 or more person-years had the highest lost-time claim and disabling injury rates at 5.28 and 8.79 per 100 person-years.
- Approximately 94% of employers had no lost-time claims and no disabling injury claims, meaning the injuries and diseases happening in the AMTA industries are the result of incidents occurring at the operations of less than 6% of employers. These figures however, are influenced by employer-size. In 2006, the number of employers with no lost-time or disabling injury claims translates to approximately 45% and 42% of the total person-years in the AMTA industries respectively.

Over the last five years, the AMTA industries have experienced an 18.5% drop in its lost-time claim rate.

- The average lost-time claim rate for all sectors of the province fell by 19.6% between 2002 and 2006. Over the same period, the lost-time claim rate for the AMTA industries fell by 18.5%. The fall is the result of the number lost-time claims fluctuating around a similar level (around 2,000 claims), while the person-years (workers) increased, 19.7%. Meaning that despite an increase in the number of people working in AMTA industries, the number of lost-time claims has not increased.
- Lost-time claim rates have fallen in all AMTA industries over the last five years. The Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services industry experienced the largest decrease at 32.8%.

A few notes about this report:

- This report presents 2006 data based on 2005 data to help with comparisons. Additional historical data are presented where possible.
- Information presented in this report is based on incidents that occurred during 2005 and accepted as lost-time or modified-work claims by WCB as of March 31, 2006.
- About 80% of employed persons in Alberta are covered by WCB. This report focuses on all industry activity in Alberta covered by the WCB and by the provincial legislation for occupational health and safety. Most industry sectors are included but notable exceptions consist of the Government of Canada, and most of the agriculture and forestry sectors. Several professional groups (i.e., the teaching and medical professions) are also excluded as are some industries where WCB coverage is not compulsory.
- Injury data are based on a small number of person-years and are therefore subject to significant year-to-year fluctuations. Therefore, trends are not indicated when there are fewer than 50 person-years. Seasonal trends are also not indicated based on a

Occupational Injuries and Diseases in Alberta – Alberta Motor Transport Association Industries 2006

Employment, Immigration and Industry (EII) prepares this annual report to provide analysis of workplace health and safety to meet the demand from industry and safety associations, labour organizations, employers and workers for incorporating this information into their strategic plans for enhancing workplace health and safety. This includes:

- Descriptions of programs and initiatives undertaken by EII in pursuit of its workplace health and safety mission and goals;
- Analysis of provincial occupational injury and disease information against a national picture;
- Estimations of the risk of injury or disease at the provincial, industry sector and sub-sector level as well as general descriptions about the incidents and injured workers; and
- Analysis of workplace injury and disease literature in Alberta.

The Occupational Injury and Diseases in Alberta reports present analysis of aggregate injury claim data to allow for the tracking of workplace health and safety performance over time. This is important for evaluating past and present performance, and in providing strategic information for the direction of workplace health and safety policy. The analysis contained in this report provides a comprehensive picture of workplace injuries in the province, allowing for a prevention focus to be made based on injury probabilities, rather than possibilities.

A few notes about this report:

- This report presents 2006 data beside 2005 data to help with comparisons. Additional historical data are presented where possible.
- Information presented in this report is based on incidents that occurred during 2006 and accepted as lost-time or modified-work claims by WCB as of March 31, 2007.
- About 80% of employed persons in Alberta are covered by WCB. This report focuses on all industry activity in Alberta covered by the WCB and by the provincial legislation for occupational health and safety. Most industry sectors are included but notable exceptions consist of the Government of Canada, and parts of the agriculture and finance sectors. Several professional groups (i.e., the teaching and medical professions) are also excluded as are some industries where WCB coverage is not compulsory.
- Injury claim rates based on a small number of person-years are too volatile to make valid comparisons over time. Therefore, claim rates are not calculated when there are fewer than 40 person-years. Duration rates are also volatile when based on a

Occupational Injuries and Diseases in Alberta – Alberta Motor Transport Association Industries 2002

Employment, Insurance and Industry (EII) requires this report to provide analysis of workplace health and safety to assist in planning for industry and safety associations, labour organizations, employers and workers for responding to the information and then use the plan for reducing workplace health and safety. The

- Description of incidents and initiatives undertaken by EII in pursuit of its workplace health and safety mission and goals.

- Analysis of provincial occupational injury and disease information against a national picture.

- Estimation of the risk of injury or disease at the provincial industry sector and sub-sector level as well as general observations about the incidence and regional variation.

- Analysis of workplace injury and disease literature in Alberta.

The Occupational Injuries and Diseases in Alberta report provides a comprehensive picture of workplace injury claim data over time. This is important for establishing a baseline for workplace health and safety policy. The analysis contained in this report provides a comprehensive picture of workplace injuries in the province, allowing for a comparison to be made based on injury probability, rather than possibility.

A few notes about this report:

- This report presents 2002 data based on 2003 data to help with comparisons. Additional historical data are presented where possible.

- Information presented in this report is based on incidents that occurred during 2002 and recorded as lost-time or modified-work claims by WCB as of March 31, 2003.

- About half of workplace injuries in Alberta are reported by WCB. This report focuses on all industry activity in Alberta covered by the WCB and by the provincial legislation for occupational health and safety. When industry sectors are identified, the

to the occupational health and safety of the workers and their families. Several professional groups (i.e., the nursing and medical professions) are also excluded as are some industries where WCB coverage is not compulsory.

- Injury claim rates based on a small number of person-years are less reliable to make valid comparisons over time. Therefore, claim rates are not calculated when there are fewer than 10 person-years. Further, rates are also volatile when based on a

small number of lost-time claims. Duration rates are not calculated when there are fewer than 30 lost-time claims.

- Estimates of year-on-year change for rates presented in this report are calculated using unrounded figures and may not match those produced from rounded figures. Percentages displayed in tables may also not sum to a hundred, due to rounding.
- Throughout the report, the lost-time claim rate is the number of lost-time claims per 100 person-years, the disabling injury rate is the number of disabling injury claims per 100 person-years and the duration rate is the number of days-lost per 100 person-years. Fatality rates are expressed as the number of fatalities per million person-years.
- Analyses by industry are based on WCB industry classification and aggregation. For more information, see the WCB premium rates manual, www.wcb.ab.ca/pdfs/07rate_manual.pdf.
- Analyses by occupation group are based on the 2001 National Occupation Classification (NOC). The NOC 2001 provides a standardized framework reflecting the Canadian labour market. For further information please see www23.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/2001/e/generic/welcome.shtml
- Occupational injuries and diseases listed throughout this report are based on the Z795-03 Coding of Work Injury or Disease Information produced by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards for categorizing occupational injury and disease. For further information see www.csa-intl.org/onlinestore/GetCatalogDrillDown.asp.
- Terms, definitions and formulas used throughout this report are described in Appendix A.

INTRODUCTION

Government of Alberta

The Government of Alberta Strategic Business Plan sets out the vision, long-term strategic plan, government priorities and three-year business plan that outlines the government's goals, strategies, and measures necessary to track results in the shorter term. The Strategic Business Plan is built on the principles of fiscal discipline and achieving results for today and the future. Overall it is focused on key outcomes for Albertans: a better quality of life and a chance to share in the province's good fortune.

To achieve these outcomes, government has set out five priorities, which are to:

- Govern with integrity and transparency;
- Manage growth pressures;
- Improve Albertans' quality of life;
- Build a stronger Alberta; and
- Provide safe and secure communities.

The Ministry of Employment, Immigration and Industry's business plan fully supports the government's vision of a vibrant and prosperous province.

Role of Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry

The Ministry of Employment, Immigration and Industry includes the Department of Employment, Immigration and Industry (EII), the Alberta Economic Development Authority (AEDA), the Alberta Labour Relations Board, Appeals Commission for Alberta Workers' Compensation, Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) and the Workers' Compensation Board – Alberta (WCB). The Ministry's major responsibilities include:

- Promoting initiatives to attract investment in Alberta, and improve company capacity, competency, competitiveness, innovation and productivity;
- Strengthening industry, regional and rural economic development to increase connectivity and economic and social capacity;
- Ensuring Albertans have fair, safe and healthy work environments;
- Advancing women's equality in areas such as the prevention of violence and Aboriginal women's issues;
- Attracting and retaining international immigrants (including temporary foreign

workers and foreign students) and inter-provincial migrants to Alberta;

- Helping Albertans to acquire the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to participate in current and future job opportunities;
- Providing financial and health benefits, child support services and employment training support to Albertans in need; and
- Marketing Alberta as the best place to live, work and do business.

EII strategic priorities, core businesses, goals, and strategies support seven of the ten goals in the Government of Alberta Strategic Business Plan. Two key government priorities are Building a Stronger Alberta and Managing Growth Pressures. Sustainable economic growth is the foundation to support these priorities.

Sustainable economic growth

EII promotes safe, healthy and productive workplaces, as well as fair, equitable and stable labour relations to ensure a fair, safe and healthy work environment for Alberta's workers. Work is central to people's lives, to the stability of families and societies. People want work that provides them with an acceptable standard of living. It is important that workers enter an environment where their health and safety is protected, where they are treated with respect and they are compensated fairly for the job they are doing. This will result in an attractive workplace that will further the position of Alberta employers to be competitive in the global economy (see Note 1.1). Alongside the human cost of occupational injuries and diseases and the impact on families and society, the economic costs are numerous.

In 2006, direct compensation payments for occupational injury and disease by WCB totalled \$877 million.¹ These costs are ultimately paid by employers through premium payments, and impact the costs of running a business as well as the final cost of delivering products and services. Further costs associated with occupational injuries and diseases would include the material damage to equipment and premises, the additional cost of hiring staff to cover for injured workers, and the lost productivity resulting from the absence. Additional impacts of poor health and safety for employers include higher absenteeism and the lower morale of employees, loss of skilled experienced employees, loss of the company's investment in training, and difficulty recruiting high-quality employees due to the loss of image and custom (particularly in the case of subcontractors to larger companies) all leading to losses in productivity and underutilization of production (see Note 1.2).

Note 1.1

Research by the International Institute for Management Development and the World Economic Forum suggests that the safest-working countries also have the best competitiveness ratings (*International Labour Organization, Safety in Numbers – pointers to a global safety culture at work, 2003*).

¹ See the Workers Compensation Board Alberta 2006 Annual Report: Working Progress
http://www.wcb.ab.ca/pdfs/2006AR/WCB_2006_Annual_Report.pdf

Other costs borne by the economy and society, due in part to work-related injuries and diseases include early retirements, unemployment and poorer households. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that in high-income countries, around 40% of all retirements (before statutory age) are caused by disability. This is equivalent to around 14% of the lifetime working capacity of the employed labour force.² Occupational injuries and diseases also affect unemployment and household income levels. Workers with an impairment of capacity can reduce their re-employability and impact household income. Workplace injuries and diseases typically reduce the overall earnings of households and in certain cases, family members have to give up jobs in order to care for an injured worker.

Sustainable economic growth creates the prosperity needed to sustain quality of life and ensures a higher standard of living. Sustainable economic performance can be achieved if growth pressures are properly addressed. The economy can also only be sustained if Alberta has the right people with the right skills at the right time to do the work.

Note 1.2

The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that approximately 4% of Gross Domestic Product is lost due to occupational injuries and diseases (ILO, *Safety in Numbers – pointers to a global safety culture at work*, 2003).

² See the International Labour Organization report: Safety in numbers – pointers for a global safety culture at work http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/safework/worldday/report_eng.pdf

PROVINCIAL SUMMARY

The positive trend continues: there were more workers covered and lower lost-time claim rates in 2006.

A total of 36,701 injuries and diseases that required workers to recuperate away from work (beyond the day of incident) were accepted by WCB in 2006. This is an increase of 3.5% from 2005. In contrast, the person-years figures increased 6.1% to 1,560,078. This means that proportionally, there were fewer injury claims. Expressed as a lost-time claim rate, the data translates into a rate of 2.35 per 100 person-years, a decrease of 2.5% from 2005 (see Table 2.1).

Table 2.1
Provincial Figures – Alberta: 2005 and 2006

	2005	2006	% Change
Person-years	1,470,321	1,560,078	6.1%
Lost-time claims	35,460	36,701	3.5%
Lost-time claim rate	2.41	2.35	-2.5%
Modified-work claims	35,505	41,390	16.6%
Lost-time claims involving modified-work	11,820	13,566	14.8%
Disabling injury claims	59,145	64,525	9.1%
Disabling injury rate	4.02	4.14	2.8%
Duration rate	57	54	-5.0%
Days lost (LTC)	837,610	844,508	0.8%
Compensation payments (LTC)	\$189,951,321	\$202,598,539	6.7%

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

The total number of modified-work claims submitted in 2006 was 41,390. There were 13,566 claims involving both lost-time and modified-work, producing 64,525 disabling injury claims. Both modified-work claims and the lost-time claims involving modified-work, displayed increases of 16.6% and 14.8% from 2005. The 2006 disabling injury rate increased by 2.8% in 2006, from 4.02 to 4.14 per 100 person-years.

Tables 2.1 and 2.2 display the lost-time claim and disabling injury figures and rates for the province, and also for the major industry sectors in Alberta. The data provides a useful setting for analyzing the health and safety performance of the AMTA industries.

Table 2.2
Lost-Time Claim and Disabling Injury Rates by Major Industry Sector – Alberta: 2005 and 2006

Major Industry Sector	2005		2006	
	Lost-Time Claim Rate	Disabling Injury Rate	Lost-Time Claim Rate	Disabling Injury Rate
Alberta	2.41	4.02	2.35	4.14
Agriculture and Forestry	3.30	3.87	3.24	4.10
Business, Personal and Professional Services	1.64	2.12	1.54	2.05
Construction and Construction Trade Services	2.58	5.18	2.50	5.22
Manufacturing, Processing and Packaging	3.43	7.35	3.11	7.01
Mining and Petroleum Development	1.01	3.80	0.87	3.64
Public Administration, Education and Health Services	2.60	3.12	2.66	3.41
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	3.06	4.35	3.17	4.81
Wholesale and Retail	2.35	3.35	2.43	3.67
AMTA Industries	4.60	6.04	4.59	6.30

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

The lost-time claim rate for the AMTA industries in 2006 was 4.59 per 100 person-years. The lost-time claim rate was higher than all of the major industry sectors. The disabling injury rate for the AMTA industries increased by 4.3%, from 6.04 per 100 person-years in 2005 to 6.30 in 2006, and was higher than all major industry sectors (see Table 2.2) except the Manufacturing, Processing and Packaging sector.

INDUSTRY SECTOR SUMMARY

The 2006 lost-time claim rate for the AMTA industries was 4.59 per 100 person-years, while the disabling injury rate was 6.30.

In 2006, improvements were made to the analysis of Workers' Compensation Board – Alberta (WCB) claim information allowing for modified-work claims to be analyzed alongside lost-time claims. Using modified-work claim data in addition to lost-time claim data ensures a more comprehensive picture of workplace injuries, and allows for greater insight into incident prevention.

A lost-time claim is a claim submitted to the WCB for an occupational injury or disease that causes a worker to have time away from work, beyond the day of injury. Included are claims receiving reimbursement of full or partial lost wages due to occupational illness or injury, or payment for permanent loss of function (for example, hearing loss claims).

A modified-work claim is submitted for an occupational injury or disease where workers have their normal work duties altered enabling them to remain working without losing time from work. Included in the figures are claims where injured workers are helped back into the workplace with modified duties after time lost due to injury or disease, and cases where workers were provided modified duties prior to time lost because of an injury or disease.

Note 3.1

- The **lost-time claim rate** represents the probability or risk of an injury or disease to a worker requiring time away from work, during a period of one year of work.
- The **disabling injury rate** represents the probability or risk of a disabling injury.

Modifying an injured workers duties, can be beneficial for both an employer and an employee. For the employer, the financial cost of an absent worker can be high and returning an injured employee to work as soon as it is medically possible is important for properly managing compensation, disability claims and productivity levels. For the employee, returning to work as soon as medically possible is beneficial both physically and psychologically, and is linked to quicker recovery rates and promotion of self-esteem. Long absences from the workplace are also linked to falls in labour market attachment.

The number of disabling injury claims combine both the lost-time and modified-work concepts and produces an overall figure where an occupational injury or disease disables a worker causing either time-lost from work or for normal work duties to be modified.

In 2006, there were a total of 36,701 injuries and diseases requiring workers to recuperate away from work (beyond the day of incident). This is an increase of 3.5% from 2005. In contrast, the person-years figures (workers covered by WCB) increased by 6.1% to 1,560,078 between 2005 and 2006.

In 2006, there were 2,183 lost-time claims and 2,995 disabling injury claims in the AMTA industries, representing 5.9% of the total lost-time claims and 4.6% of disabling injury claims in the province. The person-years figures for 2006 represent 3.0% of workers in the province. The AMTA industries' lost-time claim rate was 4.59 per 100 person-years, while the disabling injury rate was 6.30 (see Table 3.1). The 2006 provincial lost-time claim and disabling injury rates were 2.35 and 4.14, respectively.

The duration rate is intended to show the severity of the effects of occupational injury and disease as reflected by the number of days off work per 100 person-years. In 2006, the AMTA industries had a duration rate of 162, nearly three times higher than the provincial duration rate of 54. The median and average days-lost were 15 and 35, respectively. These figures are far higher than their coinciding numbers for all sectors, seven and 23, and an indication of high severity of injury occurring in the AMTA industries.

Table 3.1
AMTA Industries — Alberta: 2005-2006

	2005	2006	% Change
Person-years	45,363	47,576	4.9%
Lost-time claims	2,088	2,183	4.5%
Lost-time claim rate	4.60	4.59	-0.3%
Modified-work claims	1,316	1,498	13.8%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	665	686	3.2%
Disabling injury claims	2,739	2,995	9.3%
Disabling injury rate	6.04	6.30	4.3%
Duration rate	158	162	2.6%
Days-lost (LTC)	71,620	77,065	7.6%
Compensation payments (LTC)	\$15,646,429	\$17,986,303	15.0%

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Size of Employer

In the AMTA industries, employers with 100 or more person-years had the highest lost-time claim and disabling injury rates at 5.28 and 8.79 per 100 person-years, followed by employers with 40 to 99 person-years at 5.06 and 6.81. Employers with less than 10 person-years had the lowest lost-time claim and disabling injury rate at 3.57 and 3.89 (see Table 3.2).

Both lost-time claim and disabling injury rates matched provincial trends, with smaller employers having lower rates than large and medium sized employers.

Table 3.2

Lost-Time Claim and Disabling Injury Rates by Size³ of Employer — Alberta: 2006

Size of Employer	Number of Accounts	Person-Years	Lost-Time Claims	Disabling Injuries	Lost-Time Claim Rate	Disabling injury Rate
Less than 10 person-years	14,303	15,173	542	590	3.57	3.89
10 to 19 person-years	354	4,954	197	234	3.98	4.72
20 to 39 person-years	197	5,419	257	310	4.74	5.72
40 to 99 person-years	109	6,562	332	447	5.06	6.81
100 or more person-years	64	15,468	816	1,360	5.28	8.79
Unspecified	155	0	39	54	N/A*	N/A*

* These are employers with no payroll information or with person-years equal to zero.

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Distribution of injury claims

Table 3.3 presents figures for the proportion of employers in the AMTA industries without lost-time or disabling injury claims in 2006. Table 3.4 display figures for the proportion of claims submitted by employers.

Approximately 94% of employers had no lost-time claims and 94% had no disabling injury claims, meaning the injuries and diseases happening in the AMTA industries are the result of incidents occurring at the operations of less than 6% of employers (see Table 3.3). These figures however, are influenced by employer-size. In 2006, the number of employers with no lost-time or disabling injury claims translates to approximately 45% and 42% of the total person-years in the AMTA industries (see Table 4.6).

³ Size is measured in terms of person-years.

Table 3.3
Proportion of Employers with no Lost-Time or Disabling Injury Claims – AMTA Industries: 2006

Proportion of Employers	With no Lost-Time Claims	With no Disabling Injury Claims
AMTA	94%	94%

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

For employers with submitted claims, approximately 71% submitted one lost-time claim, 22% two to five claims and around 7% over six lost-time claims. For disabling injury claims, similar proportions exist (see Table 3.4).

Employers who submitted one to five lost-time and disabling injury claims accounted for around 26% of the total person-years in the AMTA industries. Employers who submitted over six lost-time and disabling injury claims accounted for approximately 29% and 33% of the total person-years in the AMTA industries respectively.

Table 3.4
Proportion of Employers with Claims – AMTA Industries: 2006

1 Lost-Time Claim	2 to 5 Lost-Time Claims	6 to 20 Lost-Time Claims	Over 20 Lost-Time Claims
71%	22%	6%	1%
1 Disabling Injury Claim	2 to 5 Disabling Injury Claims	6 to 20 Disabling Injury Claims	Over 20 Disabling Injury Claims
69%	22%	7%	2%

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

INDUSTRY SECTOR ANALYSIS

Lost-Time Claim Rates for the AMTA Industries

In 2002 and 2003, the Garbage/Waste Collection and Disposal Services industry had the highest lost-time claim rate in the AMTA industries. Between 2004 and 2006, the General Delivery Services Trucking industry had the highest rate. The Specialized Trucking industry had the lowest rate in each year (see Table 4.1).

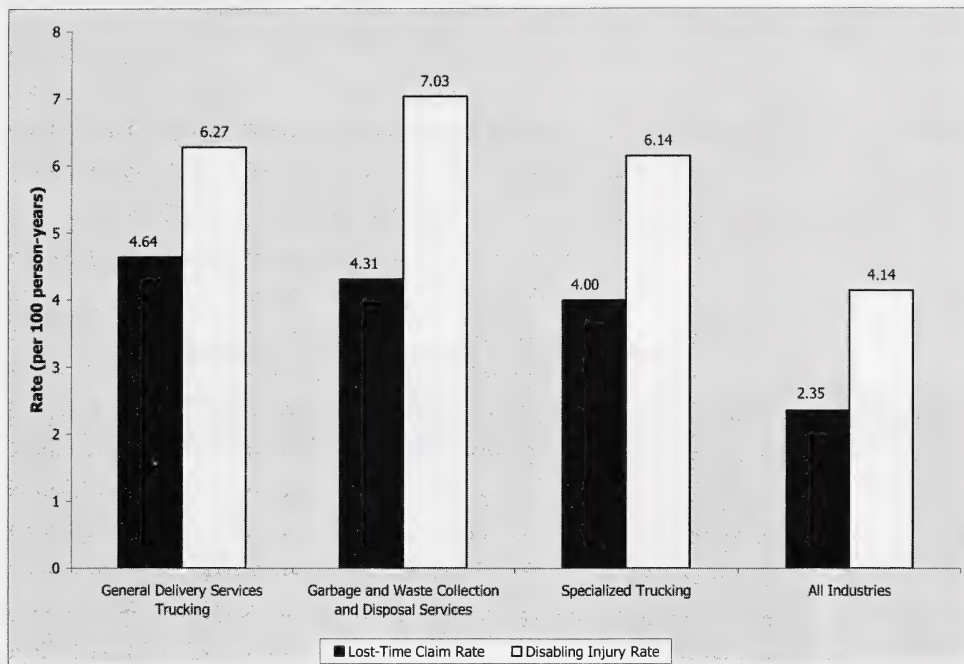
Table 4.1
Lost-Time Claim Rate for the AMTA Industries — Alberta: 2002-2006

Sub-Sector	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
AMTA	5.63	5.45	5.02	4.60	4.59
Specialized Trucking	4.52	4.14	4.33	3.79	4.00
General Delivery Services Trucking	5.65	5.50	5.06	4.66	4.64
Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services	6.41	5.76	4.97	4.39	4.31

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2006, the General Delivery Services Trucking industry had the highest lost-time claim rate in the AMTA, at 4.64 per 100 person-years. Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services had the highest disabling injury rate at 7.03. All lost-time claim and disabling injury rates in the AMTA were higher than the average rates for all sectors of the province, 2.35 and 4.14 per 100 person-years (see Chart 3.1).

Chart 3.1

Lost-Time Claim and Disabling injury rates for the AMTA Industries — Alberta: 2006

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Specialized Trucking

In 2006, the Specialized Trucking industry had a lost-time claim rate of 4.00 per 100 person-years, a 5.5% increase from 2005. This increase was caused by a 21.8% growth in the number of lost-time claims, which was larger than the 15.5% growth in the number of person-years. The disabling injury rate was 6.14. The duration rate decreased from 229 days-lost per 100 person-years in 2005 to 156 in 2006, a decrease of 32.1% (see Table 4.2).

Between 2002 and 2006, the Specialized Trucking industry experienced an 11.6% drop in its lost-time claim rate. In addition to the high duration rate there were indications of a high severity of injury in this industry. The median days-lost was 19, more than double the figure for all sectors of seven. Also, the average days-lost per claim was 39, well above the provincial figure of 23.

Table 4.2
Specialized Trucking — Alberta: 2005-2006

	2005	2006	% Change
Person-years	2,298	2,653	15.5%
Lost-time claims	87	106	21.8%
Lost-time claim rate	3.79	4.00	5.5%
Modified-work claims	80	90	12.5%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	27	33	22.2%
Disabling injury claims	140	163	16.4%
Disabling injury rate	6.09	6.14	0.8%
Duration rate	229	156	-32.1%
Days lost (LTC)	5,268	4,129	-21.6%
Compensation payments (LTC)	\$1,385,001	\$970,439	-29.9%

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

General Delivery Services Trucking

The General Delivery Services Trucking industry was the largest in the AMTA, representing 90.7% of person-years, 91.7% of lost-time claims, and 90.4% of disabling injury claims in these industries. The lost-time claim rate in 2006 was 4.64 per 100 person-years, almost unchanged from 2005 and the highest in the AMTA. The disabling injury rate was 6.27 per 100 person-years. The duration rate increased from 157 days-lost per 100 person-years in 2005 to 165 in 2006 (see Table 4.3).

Since 2002, the lost-time claim rate in the General Delivery Services Trucking industry has fallen by 17.9%. This decrease was caused by a small drop in lost-time claims coupled with a 16.8% increase in the number of person-years over this same time period. There were indications of a high severity of injury in this industry as the median days-lost of 12 and average days-lost of 36 were well above their coinciding figures for all

sectors.

Table 4.3

General Delivery Services Trucking — Alberta: 2006

	2005	2006	% Change
Person-years	41,197	43,158	4.8%
Lost-time claims	1,919	2,001	4.3%
Lost-time claim rate	4.66	4.64	-0.5%
Modified-work claims	1,171	1,335	14.0%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	617	628	1.8%
Disabling injury claims	2,473	2,708	9.5%
Disabling injury rate	6.00	6.27	4.5%
Duration rate	157	165	4.8%
Days lost (LTC)	64,727	71,076	9.8%
Compensation payments (LTC)	\$13,738,219	\$16,066,138	16.9%

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Garbage/Waste Collection and Disposal Services

Garbage/Waste Collection and Disposal Services industry had a lost-time claim rate of 4.31, while the disabling injury rate was 7.03 per 100 person-years, the highest in the AMTA. The duration rate increased to 105 in 2006 from 87 days-lost per 100 person-years in 2005 (see Table 4.4).

Between 2002 and 2006, the lost-time claims rate for the Garbage/Waste Collection and Disposal Services industry has dropped by 32.8%, from 6.41 in 2002 to 4.31 per 100 person-years in 2006. The median and average days-lost were eight and 25, both relatively close to their coinciding provincial figures.

Table 4.4

Garbage/Waste Collection and Disposal Services — Alberta: 2005-2006

	2005	2006	% Change
Person-years	1,869	1,765	-5.6%
Lost-time claims	82	76	-7.3%
Lost-time claim rate	4.39	4.31	-1.9%
Modified-work claims	65	73	12.3%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	21	25	19.0%
Disabling injury claims	126	124	-1.6%
Disabling injury rate	6.74	7.03	4.2%
Duration rate	87	105	21.2%
Days lost (LTC)	1,625	1,860	14.5%
Compensation payments (LTC)	\$523,210	\$949,726	81.5%

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Distribution of injury claims

Table 4.5 presents figures for the proportion of employers without lost-time or disabling injury claims in 2006, by sub-sector. Table 4.6 displays figures on the proportion of the person-years accounted for by employers without lost-time or disabling injury claims. Table 4.7 displays figures for the number of claims submitted by employers.

Table 4.5

Proportion of Employers with no Lost-Time or Disabling Injury Claims, for the AMTA Industries – Alberta: 2006

Proportion of Employers by Sub-Sector	With no Lost-Time Claims	With no Disabling Injury Claims
AMTA	94%	94%
Specialized Trucking	95%	94%
General Delivery Services Trucking	96%	96%
Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services	88%	87%

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Table 4.6

Proportion of Person-years accounted for by Employers with no Lost-Time or Disabling Injury Claims, for the AMTA Industries – Alberta: 2006

Proportion of person-years accounted for by employers	With no Lost-Time Claims	With no Disabling Injury Claims
AMTA	45%	42%
Specialized Trucking	53%	43%
General Delivery Services Trucking	34%	34%
Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services	30%	28%

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Two industries had higher proportions of employers with no lost-time or disabling injury claims than the average for all AMTA industries, indicating a more highly concentrated occurrence of injury in those sectors (see Table 4.5). These were the Specialized Trucking and General Delivery Services Trucking industries. These figures however, are influenced by employer-size. In 2006, the number of employers in these two industries with no lost-time claims translates to approximately 53% and 34% of the total person-years in these industries respectively (see Table 4.6).

For employers who did submit claims, the General Delivery Services Trucking had the highest proportion submitting over six claims each. This is partly a reflection of the risks of working in these industries, but it is also influenced by the number and size of

employers (see Table 4.7).

Table 4.7
Proportion of Employers with Lost-Time or Disabling Injury Claims, for the AMTA Industries – Alberta: 2006

Sub-Sector	1 Lost-Time Claim	2 to 5 Lost-Time Claims	6 to 20 Lost-Time Claims	Over 20 Lost-Time Claims
Specialized Trucking	73%	20%	6%	2%
General Delivery Services Trucking	42%	33%	21%	3%
Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services	56%	30%	15%	0%

Sub-Sector	1 Disabling Injury Claim	2 to 5 Disabling Injury Claims	6 to 20 Disabling Injury Claims	Over 20 Disabling Injury Claims
Specialized Trucking	66%	26%	5%	3%
General Delivery Services Trucking	38%	35%	18%	9%
Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services	53%	33%	7%	7%

WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

DEMOGRAPHICS OF INJURED WORKERS

Injured Worker Characteristics

In 2006, the Transportation equipment operators and related workers (excluding labourers) occupation group accounted for 71.2% of lost-time claims, 65.6% of disabling injury claims and only 38.3% of employment in the AMTA industries. In contrast, the Occupations in travel and accommodation (including attendants) had no claims, while accounting for 6.0% of those employed (see Table 5.1).

Table 5.1
Lost-Time and Disabling Injury Claims by Selected Occupation
Group — Alberta: 2006

Occupation Group	Lost-time Claims	Disabling Injury Claims	Employment
Transportation Equipment Operators and Related Workers, Excl. Labourers	71.2%	65.6%	38.3%
Trades Helpers, Construction, and Transportation Labourers and Related Occupations	15.0%	17.2%	6.4%
Clerical Occupations	5.8%	7.8%	18.2%
Mechanics	2.3%	2.7%	5.0%
Occupations in Travel and Accommodation Including Attendants	0.0%	0.0%	6.0%

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation; Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Microdata Files)

In 2006, 53.4% of lost-time claims and 50.6% of disabling injury claims were from workers aged between 35 and 54 years. Young workers, aged 15-24 years, accounted for 10.9% of lost-time claims, 14.0% of disabling injury claims and approximately 11.2% of those employed in the AMTA (see Table 5.2).⁴

⁴ Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Microdata Files) for the Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities industries

Table 5.2
Lost-Time Claims by Age — Alberta: 2005-2006

Age	2005				2006			
	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
15-19 Years	57	2.7%	92	3.4%	55	2.5%	117	3.9%
20-24 Years	165	7.9%	279	10.3%	182	8.3%	303	10.1%
25-34 Years	446	21.3%	607	22.4%	431	19.7%	648	21.6%
35-44 Years	624	29.9%	794	29.3%	591	27.1%	816	27.2%
45-54 Years	505	24.2%	605	22.3%	575	26.3%	698	23.3%
55-64 Years	240	11.5%	275	10.2%	280	12.8%	340	11.4%
65+ Years	52	2.5%	55	2.0%	69	3.2%	73	2.4%
Unspecified	0	N/A	33	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Total	2,089	100.0%	2,740	100.0%	2,183	100.0%	2,995	100.0%

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In the AMTA industries, the majority of claims were from men. In 2006, 92.7% of lost-time claims and 90.7% of disabling injury claims involved men, while they made up approximately 68.6% of those employed in the AMTA. In contrast women accounted for 7.3% of lost-time claims, 9.3% of disabling injury claims and 31.4% of those employed (see Table 5.3).

Table 5.3
Lost-Time Claims by Gender — Alberta: 2005-2006

Gender	2005				2006			
	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Women	164	8.0%	228	8.6%	157	7.3%	275	9.3%
Men	1,891	92.0%	2,437	91.4%	1,988	92.7%	2,678	90.7%
Unspecified	34	N/A	75	N/A	38	N/A	42	N/A
Total	2,089	100.0%	2,740	100.0%	2,183	100.0%	2,995	100.0%

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

INJURY AND DISEASE ANALYSIS

Overexertion was the most common cause for lost-time claims. Sprains, strains and tears continued to be the leading nature of injury with the trunk being the most commonly injured body part.

Nature of Injury or Disease

The nature of injury is used to identify the physical characteristics of the injury or disease. In 2006, 91.0% of lost-time claims and 91.8% of disabling injury claims were caused by traumatic injuries and disorders. The three most common traumatic injuries and disorders were: sprains, strains and tears, fractures and dislocations, and surface wounds and bruises (see Table 6.1).

Most nature of injury categories happened at a higher relative frequency in the AMTA than in the rest of the province. The frequency of lost-time claims resulting in fractures and dislocations were 2.8 times higher in the AMTA than the relative frequency for all sectors in the province.⁵ The frequency of disabling injury claims was 2.2 times higher. Sprains, strains and tears were 2.0 and 1.6 times higher than the relative frequency for all sectors.

Note 6.1

Throughout this section, the classifications used are based on the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards for categorizing occupational injury and disease information.

Note 6.2

The CSA standard is designed so that Nature of Injury and Part of Body categories are directly linked when classifying injuries. This is also true for the relationship between the Source of Injury and Type of Event categories.

⁵ Number of times higher or lower compares the AMTA industries' claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type, against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 6.1
Nature of Injury or Disease — Alberta: 2006

Nature of Injury	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury claims	%
Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	1,987	91.0%	2,750	91.8%
Sprains, Strains and Tears	1,045	47.9%	1,482	49.5%
Fractures and Dislocations	281	12.9%	321	10.7%
Surface Wounds and Bruises	250	11.5%	387	12.9%
Open Wounds	90	4.1%	148	4.9%
Burns	28	1.3%	35	1.2%
Other Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	293	13.4%	377	12.6%
Systemic Diseases and Disorders	91	4.2%	114	3.8%
Infectious and Parasitic Disorders	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
Neoplasms, Tumors and Cancer	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Symptoms, Signs and Ill-Defined Conditions	6	0.3%	8	0.3%
Multiple Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	0	0.0%	1	<0.1%
Other Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	8	0.4%	8	0.3%
Nature of Injury - Unknown	90	4.1%	113	3.8%
Total	2,183	100.0%	2,995	100.0%

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Part of Body Injured

In 2006, the trunk was the main injured body part, accounting for 41.9% of lost-time claims and 39.9% of disabling injury claims in the AMTA industries, followed by lower extremities at 24.4% and 25.2%. The most common trunk injury was to the back, including spine and spinal cord, representing 25.9% of lost-time claims and 24.9% of disabling injury claims (see Table 6.2).

Most parts of body categories had a higher relative frequency in the AMTA than the average for all sectors of the province. Lost-time claims causing injury to the ankle(s) and foot (feet) except toes occurred at 2.5 times the relative frequency of injury for all sectors.⁶ Disabling injuries for this category were 2.2 times the frequency for all sectors. The frequency of lost-time and disabling injury claims which affected multiple body parts were also 2.6 and 2.2 times the relative frequency for all sectors.

⁶ Number of times higher or lower compares the AMTA industries' claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type, against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 6.2
Part of Body Injured — Alberta: 2006

Part of Body Injured	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Trunk	914	41.9%	1,196	39.9%
Back, Including Spine, Spinal Cord	566	25.9%	746	24.9%
Other Trunk	348	15.9%	450	15.0%
Lower Extremities	533	24.4%	755	25.2%
Ankle(s) and Foot (Feet) Except Toes	261	12.0%	393	13.1%
Leg(s)	236	10.8%	317	10.6%
Other Lower Extremities	36	1.6%	45	1.5%
Upper Extremities	291	13.3%	510	17.0%
Wrist(s) and Hand(s) Except Finger(s)	131	6.0%	209	7.0%
Finger(s), Fingernail(s)	69	3.2%	149	5.0%
Other Upper Extremities	91	4.2%	152	5.1%
Multiple Body Parts	220	10.1%	273	9.1%
Head	155	7.1%	180	6.0%
Eye(s)	30	1.4%	36	1.2%
Other Head Parts	125	5.7%	144	4.8%
Neck, Including Throat	51	2.3%	61	2.0%
Body Systems	9	0.4%	9	0.3%
Part of Body - Unknown	8	0.4%	2	0.1%
Other Body Parts	2	0.1%	9	0.3%
Total	2,183	100.0%	2,995	100.0%

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Source of Injury or Disease

The source of injury or disease describes the object or substance that the worker came into contact resulting in an injury or disease. Structures and surfaces and vehicles, the two primary sources of injury, accounted for 41.5% of lost-time claims and 38.1% of disabling injury claims (see Table 6.3).

Vehicles were the most prevalent injury in the AMTA when compared to the injury frequency for all sectors. Lost-time and disabling injury claim relative frequencies for this source of injury category were 5.0 and 4.2 times higher than the relative frequency for all sectors.⁷ Structures and surfaces had frequencies that were 2.6 and 2.2 times the frequencies for all sectors, while containers were 2.2 and 2.1 times higher.

⁷ Number of times higher or lower compares the AMTA industries' claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type, against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 6.3
Source of Injury or Disease — Alberta: 2006

Source of Injury	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Structures and Surfaces	478	21.9%	617	20.6%
Vehicles	427	19.6%	524	17.5%
Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals	358	16.4%	508	17.0%
Person-Injured or Ill Worker	328	15.0%	473	15.8%
Minerals - Metallic or Nonmetallic (except fuel)	8	0.4%	10	0.3%
Person-Other Than Injured or Ill Worker*	6	0.3%	7	0.2%
Other Persons, Plants, Animals & Minerals	16	0.7%	18	0.6%
Containers**	243	11.1%	404	13.5%
Parts and Materials	236	10.8%	343	11.5%
Tools, Instruments and Equipment	47	2.2%	76	2.5%
Hand Tools - Nonpowered	29	1.3%	48	1.6%
Hand Tools - Powered	1	0.0%	3	0.1%
Other Tools and Equipments	17	0.8%	25	0.8%
Machinery	58	2.7%	84	2.8%
Furniture and Fixtures	32	1.5%	40	1.3%
Chemicals and Chemical Products	21	1.0%	27	0.9%
Other Sources	89	4.1%	107	3.6%
Source of Injury - Unknown	194	8.9%	265	8.8%
Total	2,183	100.0%	2,995	100.0%

* Person – other than injured or ill worker: classifies injuries or illnesses inflicted by family members as well as non-family relations, including co-workers, former co-workers, and patients.

** Containers: classifies receptacles that are commonly used to hold, store or carry materials (examples: dishes, cups and glasses, luggage, etc.).

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Type of Event or Exposure

The type of event or exposure describes the incident or event that occurred at the time of the exposure that directly resulted in the injury or disease. The most common type of injury or exposure was bodily reaction or exertion which accounted for 35.0% of lost-time claims and 36.7% of disabling injury claims.

Lost-time claims caused by transportation accidents were 5.0 times higher in the AMTA than the relative frequency for all sectors in the province.⁸ Disabling injury claims for this category were 4.2 times higher than the average for all sectors. Falls were also 2.7 and 2.3 times higher in the AMTA than the average for all sectors in the province. Most other types of event displayed a higher, or similar, relative likelihood than the average for all sectors in the province.

⁸ Number of times higher or lower compares the AMTA industries' claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type, against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 6.4
Type of Event or Exposure — Alberta: 2006

Type of Event or Exposure	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injuries	%
Bodily Reaction or Exertion	764	35.0%	1,100	36.7%
Overexertion	417	19.1%	593	19.8%
Bodily Reaction*	285	13.1%	403	13.5%
Repetitive Motion	28	1.3%	50	1.7%
Other Bodily Reaction/Exertion	34	1.6%	54	1.8%
Contact with Objects or Equipment	424	19.4%	671	22.4%
Struck by Object	237	10.9%	368	12.3%
Caught in Object	90	4.1%	140	4.7%
Struck against Object	75	3.4%	132	4.4%
Rubbed or Abraded	12	0.5%	15	0.5%
Other Contact with Object/Equipment	10	0.5%	16	0.5%
Falls	516	23.6%	660	22.0%
Fall on Same Level	270	12.4%	362	12.1%
Fall to Lower Level	192	8.8%	233	7.8%
Other Falls	54	2.5%	65	2.2%
Transportation Accidents	287	13.1%	329	11.0%
Exposure to Harmful Substances	78	3.6%	84	2.8%
Assaults and Violent Acts	11	0.5%	13	0.4%
Assaults and Violent Acts by Person(s)	7	0.3%	8	0.3%
Other Assaults and Violent Acts	4	0.2%	5	0.2%
Fires and Explosions	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
Other Events or Exposures	1	<0.1%	1	<0.1%
Type of Event - Unknown	101	4.6%	136	4.5%
Total	2,183	100.0%	2,995	100.0%

* Bodily reaction: injuries or illnesses resulting from a single incident of free bodily motion which imposed stress or strain on some part of the body.

Data Source: 2005 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Duration of Disability

Duration of disability⁹ is intended to reflect the severity of the effects of occupational injury and disease as reflected by the number of days off work. However, the efforts of employers to introduce modified work programs to integrate injured workers more quickly back into the workforce can reduce workdays-lost.

In 2006, 42.3% of claims had duration of disability of ten days or less, while 22.6% of the total lost-time claims resulted in 51 days or more lost from work (see Table 6.5). In all sectors in the province, 54.6% of lost-time claims resulted in 1-10 day-lost, while only 13.2% of claims required 51 or more days away from work.

Table 6.5
Duration of Disability — Alberta: 2006

Duration of Disability	2005		2006	
	Lost-Time Claims	%	Lost-Time Claims	%
1-5 Days	643	30.8%	632	29.0%
6-10 Days	274	13.1%	292	13.4%
11-15 Days	162	7.8%	172	7.9%
16-20 Days	102	4.9%	114	5.2%
21-30 Days	155	7.4%	150	6.9%
31-40 Days	114	5.5%	103	4.7%
41-50 Days	103	4.9%	111	5.1%
51 Days or More	458	21.9%	493	22.6%
Unspecified	78	3.7%	116	5.3%
Total	2,089	100.0%	2,183	100.0%

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

⁹ The duration of disability refers to the length of time, in days, for which the worker receives wage compensation from the WCB.

OCCUPATIONAL FATALITIES

In 2006 WCB accepted 11 fatalities in the AMTA industries, accounting for 8.9% of all 124 fatalities in the province.

A WCB accepted occupational fatality is defined as the death of a worker, resulting from a work-related incident or exposure, which has been accepted by the WCB for compensation. Some of the fatalities accepted in a particular year occurred in prior years. Unless otherwise specified, occupational fatalities in this report refer to occupational fatalities accepted by the WCB. The WCB classifies occupational fatalities into three general types:

Motor Vehicle Incidents

Motor vehicle incidents typically involve non-industrial vehicles operating on public roads in which the fatally injured worker was either the driver or a passenger. This type of occupational fatality also includes cases involving aircraft crashes, train crashes, helicopter crashes and water vehicle crashes. In 2006, eight of the eleven AMTA fatalities accepted by the WCB were motor vehicle incidents (see Table 7.1).

Workplace Incidents

Workplace incidents consisted of cases in which the worker died at a worksite or as a result of injuries sustained at a worksite. This is the type of fatality that EII typically investigates. In 2006, two of AMTA fatalities accepted by the WCB were workplace incidents (see Table 7.1).

Occupational Disease

Occupational disease fatalities consist mostly of recognized occupational disease, that is, disease known to be primarily or exclusively work-related such as asbestosis and coal workers' pneumoconiosis. This category also includes heart attacks suffered on the job. Occupational diseases are frequently diagnosed several years after the initial or crucial exposure to the toxic substance, and in such cases, it is difficult to determine when the fatal exposure occurred. *The occupational disease category, therefore, should not be interpreted to reflect present worksite hazardous conditions or exposures.*

Each year the WCB accepts some occupational fatality claims for compensation. Occupational fatality claims that were accepted in a particular year may include fatalities

from prior years. In 2006, one of the occupational disease fatalities accepted by WCB was in the AMTA industries (see Table 7.1).

Table 7.1

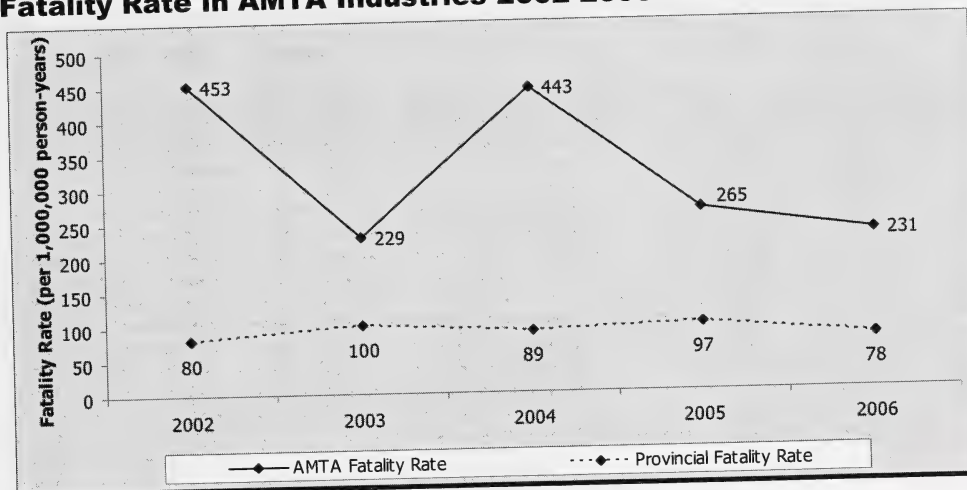
**Types of Occupational Fatalities Accepted by the WCB –
Alberta: 2002 - 2006**

Year	Motor Vehicle Incident		Workplace Incident		Occupational Disease		Total
	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities
2002	7	38.9%	3	16.7%	8	44.4%	18
2003	7	77.8%	1	11.1%	1	11.1%	9
2004	14	77.8%	3	16.7%	1	5.6%	18
2005	7	58.3%	2	16.7%	3	25.0%	12
2006	8	72.7%	2	18.2%	1	9.1%	11
Total	43	63.2%	11	16.2%	14	20.6%	68

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

The fatality rate is calculated by dividing the number of accepted fatalities in the year by the number of person-years in that year. The result is expressed as “per million person-years.” The 2006 fatality rate was 231 per million person-years (see Chart 7.1). The average fatality rate for all sectors in the province in 2006 was 78 per million person-years.¹⁰

Chart 7.1
Fatality Rate in AMTA Industries 2002-2006



Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

¹⁰ Estimates are based upon information provided by the WCB. Fatalities occurring under Government of Canada jurisdiction are excluded from the calculation of the provincial fatality rate.

Between 2002 and 2006, the WCB accepted 68 fatalities in the AMTA industries. The General Delivery Services Trucking industry accounted for the majority with 58 accepted fatalities; representing 85.3% of all fatalities in the AMTA industries (see Table 7.2). Transportation accidents were the leading type of event causing the majority of the fatalities.

Table 7.2

**AMTA Occupational Fatalities Accepted by the WCB by Industry
– Alberta: 2002 - 2006**

Industry	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Number of Fatalities	%
General Delivery Services Trucking	17	8	15	9	9	58	85.3%
Specialized Trucking	1	1	3	2	1	8	11.8%
Garbage/Waste Collection and Disposal Services	0	0	0	1	1	2	2.9%
AMTA Industries	18	9	18	12	11	68	100.0%

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION EMPLOYERS

A Certificate of Recognition (COR) is given to employers who develop health and safety programs that meet established standards. Certificates are issued by Certifying Partners and are co-signed by EII.¹¹

In 2006, 5.4% of AMTA industries' employers were COR holders. These employers represented 44.5% of total person-years in the AMTA industries. The Garbage/Waste Collection and Disposal industry had the highest proportion of CORs at 9.7%, representing 70.5% of all person-years in this industry (see Table 8.1).

Table 8.1
Employers With Valid COR — Alberta: 2006

Sub-Sector	Number of Certified Employers	Total Number of Employers	% of Total Employers Certified	% of Total Person-Years Certified
AMTA	826	15,182	5.4%	44.5%
Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services	22	227	9.7%	70.5%
General Delivery Services Trucking	723	13,931	5.2%	42.9%
Specialized Trucking	81	1,024	7.9%	53.4%

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

¹¹ For more information on the COR program visit www.employment.alberta.ca/cps/rde/xchg/hre/hs.xsl/277.html

Between 2005 and 2006, the lost-time claim rate for COR holders decreased from 4.45 to 4.21, while the rate for non-COR holders increased from 4.72 to 4.89. The disabling injury rate for COR holders experienced an increase of 2.0%, while the rate for non-COR holders increased by 5.9% (see Table 8.2). For all sectors in the province, the lost-time claim and disabling injury rates for COR holders were 2.40 and 5.47 per 100 person-years respectively, for non-COR holders the respective numbers were 2.32 and 3.27. A low lost-time claim rate and high disabling injury rate can be indicative of proficient claims management. However, it may also be a reflection of larger employers having greater capacity to offer modified duties to injured workers than smaller employers.

Comparing COR holders against all non-COR holders provides useful information about each group, although it does not compare like-with-like. A COR is given to employers who develop health and safety programs that meet established standards, with this group seeing continued improvement in their lost-time claim rates. Some non-COR holders have good programs in place above this standard, whereas others do not. This makes evaluating improving health and safety trends less clear for this group.

Table 8.2
Lost-Time Claim Rate for AMTA COR Holders —
Alberta: 2005 and 2006

Employer	Year	Number of Accounts	Person-Years	Lost-Time Claims	Disabling Injury Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate	Disabling Injury Rate	Change in Lost-Time Claim Rate	Change in Disabling Injury Rate
COR	2005	815	19,531	869	1,317	4.45	6.74	-5.4%	2.0%
	2006	826	21,179	891	1,456	4.21	6.87		
Non-COR	2005	13,006	25,832	1,219	1,422	4.72	5.50	3.7%	5.9%
	2006	14,356	26,396	1,292	1,539	4.89	5.83		

Data Source: 2006 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

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The Workers' Compensation Board. "Rate and Industry Description Manual," January 2005.

APPENDIX A: TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND FORMULAS

Lost-Time Claim A lost-time claim (LTC) is a claim for an occupational injury or disease that causes the worker to have time away from work, beyond the day of injury. Included are claims receiving reimbursement of full or partial lost wages due to occupational illness or injury, or payment for permanent loss of function.

Modified-Work Claim A modified-work claim is a claim for an occupational injury or disease where a worker had their normal work duties altered to enable them to remain working without losing time from work. Also included are claims where injured workers are helped back into the workplace with modified duties after time lost due to injury or disease.

Disabling Injury Claim Disabling injury (DI) claims combine both the lost-time and modified-work concepts to produce an overall figure where an occupational injury or disease disables the worker causing either time-lost from work or for their normal work duties to be modified.

Person-Years Person-years are estimates calculated from wage and payroll data provided by account holders to the WCB. Employment, Immigration and Industry uses data to estimate an average industry wage, and uses the average industry wage and employer payroll data to estimate person-years for each employer and each industry. One person-year is equivalent to one full-time worker working for one year, and can be assumed to equal 2,000 hours worked.

Lost-Time Claim Rate The lost-time claim rate is calculated by dividing the number of lost-time claims by the person-year estimate, and multiplying the result by 100. The lost-time claim rate represents the probability or risk of an injury or disease to a worker during a period of one-year work, which will result in time lost from work. Comparisons of lost-time claim rates between industries, or between years, can be used to indicate increases, decreases, or differences in this risk.

$$\text{LTC Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of LTC's} \times 100}{\text{Person-Years}}$$

**Disabling injury
Rate**

The disabling injury rate is calculated by dividing the number of disabling injury claims by the person-year estimates, and multiplying the result by 100. The disabling injury rate represents the probability or risk of a disabling injury or disease to a worker during a period of one-year of work. The disabling injury rate is similar to the LTC rate although it covers a broader range of injuries, including those that are less severe in nature (do not require time away from work). The rate represents the number of claims per 100 person-years and includes claims made for both lost-time and modified-work.

$$\text{Disabling Injury Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of DI's} \times 100}{\text{Person-Years}}$$

**Duration
(Days-lost)**

The duration of disability is the number of days following the injury or disease for which the worker was disabled and unable to perform normal work duties. This information is obtained for this report from data on compensation days paid on each claim from the WCB. Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry obtains these data on March 31 of the year following the claim year, and does not update the information, even though many injured workers continue to be disabled beyond this date. As a result, the duration information reported here underestimates the true impact of lost-time injury and disease.

Duration Rate

The duration rate is calculated by dividing the number of workdays-lost (disability days) by the person-year estimate, and multiplying by 100. The result is expressed as days-lost per 100 person-years, and indicates, in part, the economic impact of occupational injury and disease. Duration rates are not recommended as reliable indicators of full economic cost. In addition, readers are warned that duration rates are highly unstable when based on only a few lost-time claims; it is recommended that the duration rate not be calculated based upon fewer than 30 lost-time claims.

$$\text{Duration Rate} = \frac{\text{Disability Days} \times 100}{\text{Person-Years}}$$

**Industry
Coverage**

About 80% of employed persons in Alberta are covered by WCB. This report focuses on all industry activity in Alberta covered by the WCB and by the provincial legislation for occupational health and safety. Most industry sectors are included but notable exceptions consist of the Government of Canada, and parts of the agriculture and finance sectors. Several professional groups (i.e. the teaching and medical professions) are also excluded as are some industries where WCB coverage is not compulsory.

WCB Accepted Fatality

An occupational fatality is the death of a worker which resulted from a work-related incident or exposure and which has been accepted by the WCB for compensation. A fatality is counted in the year it is accepted.

Fatality Rate

The fatality rate is calculated by dividing the number of accepted fatalities by the person-years estimate and multiplying the result by one million. The result is expressed as fatalities per million person-years. Fatalities that are found under the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada are excluded before the calculation of the fatality rate.

$$\text{Fatality Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of Fatalities} \times 1,000,000}{\text{Person-Years}}$$

Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average

The number of times higher/lower than the provincial average is used to compare the performance of the industries with the province regarding specific injury or disease. A number less than one indicates that the injury of the industries is lower than the provincial average; if equal to one it indicates the injury of the industries is the same as the provincial average and a number greater than one indicates that the injury of the industries is higher than the provincial average.

$$\frac{\text{Per cent of Total Claims for the Industries}}{\text{Per cent of Total Claims for the Province}} \times \frac{\text{Industries' LTC Rate}}{\text{Provincial LTC Rate}}$$

Where:

Per cent of Total Claims for the Industries =

$$\frac{\text{Number of LTCs for the Industries (e.g. back injury)}}{\text{Total LTCs for the Industries}} \times 100$$

Per cent of Total Claims for the Province =

$$\frac{\text{Number of LTCs for the Province (e.g. back injury)}}{\text{Total LTCs for the Province}} \times 100$$

NEC

Means 'Not Elsewhere Classified'.

UNS

Means 'Unspecified'.

Labour Force Survey

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a household survey carried out monthly by Statistics Canada. The objectives of the LFS have been to divide the working-age population into three mutually exclusive classifications - employed, unemployed, and not in the labour force - and to provide descriptive and explanatory data on each of these categories. Data from the survey provide information on major labour market trends such as shifts in employment across industrial sectors, hours worked, labour force participation and unemployment rates.

For the most part, annual LFS data has been analyzed alongside injury and disease information to aid the understanding of injury risk or frequency by worker type. The LFS uses a different industry classification to WCB, although there are similarities in structure. Where possible, the two data sources are used comparably and proportions (of totals) have been used to evaluate information generated from both sources. Using proportions attempts to overcome obvious distortions in the numbers in employment from both sources, although the impact on the proportions from industry coverage differences is unclear. In certain instances, monthly LFS micro-data files have been combined and used to produce proportion estimates for the whole year for particular sub-groups of the population.

For further information on the LFS, please see
<http://employment.alberta.ca/cps/rde/xchg/hre/hs.xsl/67.html>

APPENDIX B: AMTA WCB INDUSTRY CODES¹²

50701 – Specialized Trucking

50714 – General Delivery Services Trucking

57901 – Garbage/Waste Collection and Disposal Services

¹² Codes are Workers' Compensation Board industry codes.

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Fax: 780-422-5070

Employment, Immigration and Industry website:

<http://employment.alberta.ca/cps/rde/xchg/hre/hs.xsl/129.html>

Work Safe Alberta website:

www.worksafely.org

Workplace Health and Safety Contact Centre:

Telephone: 780-415-8690, toll free by calling 1-866-415-8690
<http://employment.alberta.ca/cps/rde/xchg/hre/hs.xsl/2874.html>

Certificate of Recognition (COR) Program:

<http://employment.alberta.ca/cps/rde/xchg/hre/hs.xsl/277.html>

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Employment, Immigration and Industry website:

<http://www.ei.gc.ca/employment-immigration-industry>

WorkSafe Alberta website:

www.worksafe.ca

WorkSafe Health and Safety Contact Centre

Telephone: 1-800-413-8000, toll free by calling 1-800-413-8000

<http://www.worksafe.ca/health-safety>

Statistics of Immigration (COI) Program

<http://www.cis-immigration.gc.ca/coi>

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